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tract it with avidity, have been proved in the most satisfactory manner in the affirmative by Mr. Davy, in his last public lectures, by experiments which perhaps M. Curaudau never heard of. The experiments of Mr. Curaudau are however valuable, for proving that carbon exists in combination with the alkaline metals, and shewing that it is very probable hydrogen is also combined with them; but they by no means show that these metals do not attract oxygen, but only that they do not attract *the whole* of the oxygen taken up, but that a part of it is consumed by the combined carbon.

His fourth inference is also destitute of any real support, for he has stated no arguments to show that hydrogen combined in the solid state, has the property of diminishing the specific gravity of any substance whatsoever.

The circumstance of carbon being combined with the alkaline metals, or perhaps being necessary to their metalization, adds weight to certain conjectures of Mr. Davy's, mentioned at his lectures, which tend to revive the doctrine of Stahll, with some modification, and to make it probable that some undetermined substance, either of an inflammable nature, or some form of fire itself, exists in combination with every metal; but some of Mr. Davy's experiments proved, that this was not hydrogen, in the case of metal of potash

The conjecture of M. Curaudau, that all iron contains carbon, is by no means confined to him, but is in fact the opinion of many experienced chemists.

Mr. Davy's theory, relative to the effect of iron in metallizing potash, is, that some of the iron first decomposes water contained in the potash, by absorbing its oxygen; that the hydrogen thus formed combines with the potash, and accelerates its fusion, and that in this state it parts with its oxygen, probably to the unoxided part of the iron.

Much is still wanted to complete our knowledge of the metals. If Mr. Curaudau's opinion of the agency of carbon in metallization of potash is confirmed, the discovery will do him much honour, as materially increasing this knowledge.

DETACHED ANECDOTES.

THE LAUDABLE PERSEVERANCE OF A FEW, IS OFTEN CROWNED WITH SUCCESS.—ORIGIN OF THE ATHENÆUM IN LIVERPOOL.

LIVERPOOL IS CHARACTERIZED BY ONE OF HER NATIVE POETS, AS,

. . . . . intent,
"On life's prime object, cent per cent,
Heeds not a soft delicious strain;
Nor any notes, save notes of gain."

And yet a stranger who views her Athenæum, Lyceum, and Union, and perceives so much of superfluous wealth applied to literary purposes, might be disposed to think highly of the literary taste of the inhabitants of this commercial and opulent town; but, on a closer view, perhaps, it may be found that these grand erections had at first their rise in the exertions of a few, and afterwards in their success encouraging similar undertakings, because, the stock in the Athenæum became a gainful commercial speculation. These spacious reading-rooms were built by subscription, and are the property of the subscribers; they are plentifully supplied with news papers, magazines, reviews, &c. to which is added in the Athenæum, a large well chosen library; with the Lyceum, the Liverpool library, an old institution has been since connected. To the exertions of two public spirited individuals is owing the successful attempt to build the Athenæum, the precursor of the others. A meeting was publicly advertised to consider of a proposal to establish a news-room and library, on an enlarged and liberal plan. A

e

highly respectable and amiable physician, since deceased, Dr. Currie, (the biographer of Burns,) and Wm. Roscoe, whose refined taste, literary talents, and patriotic exertions are still beneficially employed to adorn and instruct the town and vicinity of Liverpool, only attended. They felt a degree of hopelessness on the occasion, and were going away; but on a little consideration, they resolved to proceed to business. One assumed the office of chairman and the other of secretary, and thus constituted, they published a plan in the name of a meeting, and appointed a number of their friends, a committee to to take in subscriptions. The work being thus set forward, subscribers offered; the Athenæum was built and elegantly fitted up with the apparatus of learning. The original shares, ten guineas, with an annual subscription, which constitute their fund, soon rose above par. and became a transferrible property increasing in value, and realized the idea of producing "notes of gain" to those who chose to sell. Thus encouraged, the Lyceum and Union were built, and by the praiseworthy exertions of a few individuals, plans have been established, which cannot fail to have a beneficial influence, particularly on the young men who abound in this commercial town, and who have thus an opportunity of employing their hours of leisure in an amusing and instructive manner, far different from the gross pleasures of the tavern. It is to the credit of many young men, that they are seen after the hours of the coming-house are expired, employing themselves in the rooms of the Athenæum, enjoying present rational amusement, and storing their minds with useful knowledge, while by such occupation they are kept from the dangers, to which idleness and indolence are exposed. K.

WANT OF EDUCATION.

Otho of Brandenburgh, in 1289, was regent of Bohemia, and had the custody of Wenceslaus, the young king of that country during his minority. From interested motives, he wished to keep the young king in ignorance: and so little attention was paid to him, that he roamed about the streets with a woollen shirt, tattered garments and torn shoes, and often suffered from hunger. His education was extremely neglected, and he was not taught either to read or write; and the knowledge which he afterwards acquired was derived from his good understanding, and his intercourse with the learned. But Otho was as zealous to accustom him to the exercises of religion, as he was careless of his person, manners, and education, for he compelled him to attend twenty masses a day. See Pelzel's history of Bohemia, vol. 1. Do not some persons in the present day, act a similar part on similar motives, while they object to give a good education to the poorer classes of society, and prefer external acts of devotion, to instructing the youth in useful knowledge.

ADVANTAGES OF INSTRUCTION.

At the present day there is, perhaps, no country in Europe, in which, in proportion to its population, so small a number of crimes fall under the chastisement of the criminal law, as Scotland. We have the best authority for asserting, that on an average of thirty years, preceding the year 1797, the executions in that division of the Island did not amount to six annually; and one quarter sessions for the town of Manchester only, has sent, according to Mr. Hume more felons to the plantations, than all the judges of Scotland usually do, in the space of a year. It might appear invidious to attempt a calculation of the many thousand individuals in Manchester and its vicinity, who can neither read nor write. A majority of those who suffer the pun-

ishment of death for their crimes, in every part of England, are, it is believed, in this miserable state of ignorance. Sir Richard Phillips found on examination of the jails in London, that by far the greater number of the prisoners could neither read nor write. Let us hear no more of the danger of instructing the poorer classes of Society. Ignorance never contributed to make a man a peaceable or good citizen.

SPEECH OF GEORGE THE SECOND TO PARLIAMENT, AGAINST IMPRESSING SEAMEN, JAN. 27th, 1727-8.

"I should look upon it as a great happiness, if, at the beginning of my reign, I could see the foundation laid of so great and necessary a work as the encrease and encouragement of our seamen in general: and that they may be invited rather than compelled by force and violence, to enter into the service of of their country, as far as occasion shall require it; a consideration worthy the representatives of a people, great, and flourishing in trade and navigation."

MERCY BETTER THAN SACRIFICE.

Albert, of the house of Austria, was assassinated in 1308. His sister, Agnes, during the retaliation which was inflicted afterwards on the adherents and families of the assassins, is said to have repeatedly exclaimed from the legend of St. Elizabeth, "now I bathe in May dew" a proverb expressing the most delicious pleasure. She, in conjunction with the widow of Albert, built and endowed a magnificent convent on the spot where he was assassinated. It was with great difficulty she could be prevailed on to spare the infant child of the Lord of Eschenbach, whom the soldiers of her party rescued from her hands at the moment she was preparing to strangle it, and above one thousand lives are supposed to have been sacrificed to glut her vengeance. Yet Agnes surpassed the most devout nuns, in fasting, praying, giving alms, and working costly implements for the church; but history records with pleasure the answer of an aged hermit, to her offer of asylum in the convent: "Woman" said he "God is not served by shedding innocent blood, and by building convents from the plunder of families, but by compassion and forgiveness of injuries."

ORIGINAL POETRY.

ANALYSIS OF 1809.

Continued from No. 13, p. 129.

Et quod non didici, sane nescire fateri.

INFANTS OF KOSTER, here we come again,
Pray, can you give me any news from Spain?
"From Spain, sweet sir, aye, that we can indeed;
Such news mayhap, as never yet was read,
Except in Castlereagh's grand gazette!
Which sees a vict'ry in a sad defeat."

Where, *ad captandum vulgus*—hold Sir Arthur,
Is clothed with every honour—save the garter,
Which, in due time, will on his shoulders fall,
Baron and viscount—in a moment start,
Upon his head—for losing only part,
Then, what must happen when he loses all?

Victor, and Ney, and "*cursed Soult*," may vapour,
About their gaining battles—but on paper,
(Though sick and wounded he may leave behind,)
Sir Arthur beats them evermore we find,
And still when foes upon his army press,
He is the boy—for negative success.

Sir Arthur fights, Sir Arthur runs away;
Thinking the Spaniards after him will stay;
Sir Arthur stops—thinking Cuesta watches,
While he, at Deleytoza, writes dispatches;
Stating that want of meat's the only reason,
Why he advances backwards out of season!
And 'scaped from Victor, calls himself a hero,
For doing which, he now is Baron Duero!

Then after telling us of all the thrashments,
He gave the Frenchmen, talks of "embarrasments,"